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LYRICALLY COLORFUL...

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONCERT A RAINBOW SHOWCASE

— PAGE 8 —

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Court action taken to prevent marriage to sex offender

BY STAN MADDUX

There's an effort to block a convicted sex offender from ever marrying a 22-year old handicapped woman after their plans to exchange wedding vows suddenly were stopped.

The steps were taken by La Porte County Clerk Heather Stevens, who filed a motion in La Porte Circuit Court.

A hearing on her request was held Monday before Judge Julianne Havens, who took the matter under advisement.

"It is in the hands of the court. I'm confident they are going to do the right thing," she said.

Her request was in response to the woman and 66-year old Bradley Armstrong having their wedding plans at the courthouse in La Porte interrupted on March 17 just moments before the ceremony was supposed to begin.

Armstrong was arrested and charged with Level 6 felony providing false information on his marriage license application.

He was released from the La Porte County Jail the next day on $750 cash bond, according to court records in the case.

Armstrong was accused of failing to report himself as a sexual violent predator as required on the marriage license application for a 2002 child molesting conviction.

Stevens, who has been the county clerk since 2021, said she doesn't normally get involved in any cases but did so this time out of concern for the woman, who is 10 weeks pregnant with Armstrong's child.

Armstrong is categorized as a lifetime sex offender, who is ordered not to be with anyone under the age of 18.

"There were a lot of red flags in this one," she said.

In her court filings, Stevens cited her authority under state law to seek action from the court as "superior guardian" over the woman as an officer of the court.

The woman's parents have been her legal guardians since the court ruled her "incompetent" from in a case filed in 2021.

The ruling was based on her medical history that includes Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, functional movement disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, delayed speech and depression.

Stevens said the "ultimate guardian" over any protected person under state law is the court.

In this case, Stevens said her parents as legal guardians are agents acting under the court's supervision and subject to the court's overriding authority.

Stevens said how the parents feel about her daughter marrying Armstrong is not known but the court may at any time review, modify or override any decision from a guardian considered not in the best interest of the protected person.

Another legal guardian for the woman could also be appointed by the court.

For now, Stevens said her office will not issue them a marriage license under a state law that prohibits a clerk from doing so to any person legally judged as incompetent.

Havens decided to have a hearing in May to address concerns related to guardianship.

Stevens said all she wants is for the parents or whoever is the legal guardian to look out for the best interests of the woman.

In Los Angeles, new luxury is Erewhon and private jet travel. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Hike to feature Tower Hill Woods

Hikers will explore Tower Hill Woods at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

Hikers will be led through Tower Hill Woods, along a creek, to the Lake Michigan beach and back by

Pat Fisher, president of Harbor Country Hikers, and Tracy Heilman, director of Tower Hill Camp. Be prepared for a variety of terrains. The dunes along Lake Michigan are the largest freshwater coastal dune system in the world, formed primarily between 3,500 and 5,000 years ago following the retreat of glaciers. How these dunes formed and are still evolving will be discussed during the hike. The hike can be just under 2 miles or as long as 2-1/2 miles, your choice. There will be perfect-picture landscapes, so bring your camera and friends.

Tower Hill Camps and Retreat Centers spans more than 60 acres of a beautifully forested landscape, in Sawyer, Michigan. The trails meander through 32 acres of protected area which is accessible to the public from Tower Hill Road. These trails are not long but provide a nice workout as they meander over and around ancient backdunes created thousands of years ago. Hikers will see excellent examples of planted and native flora along the trails.

HCH has an All-Terrain Rollator which may be reserved for use on our hikes. Reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis by filling out the brief form at www.harborcountryhikers.org/rollator.

Although membership is preferred, all are welcome to attend this hike. For more information, including driving directions, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.org, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
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VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
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Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
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HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Residents gather for No Kings Day

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

In solidarity with the millions of other Americans taking to the streets that day, a group of residents gathered in New Buffalo at the corner of North Whittaker and West Buffalo streets for the third No Kings Day Saturday, March 26.

Calling it a "random little get-together," Shelby Sexton, a New Buffalo resident and graduate of New Buffalo High School, said that she reached out to Emily Donnelly, also a resident and NBHS graduate.

In addition to locals, some random people from Chicago joined them for a while.

A No Kings protest and rally was happening at the Berrien County Courthouse parking lot in St. Joseph, Michigan; however, Sexton said she felt it was important to bring some of that "representation" here.

"I feel like a lot of people are comfortable in this area and they don't see a lot of this happening and I feel it needs to be represented down here, too," she said.

Cars that were driving down Buffalo Street honked their horns at their group of people, who were holding a myriad of handmade signs.

"It's been great – we got a lot of support today," Sexton said.

SWMI Indivisible had done a No Kings protest last year on the beach, which Sexton said she believes is the first one to take place here.

While Sexton said she believes people "mostly" know what's going on, there are still some who need to be told to pay attention: "You need to, this is what's happening, it's important - it's affecting everyone."

"People are dying, people are getting hurt, we're going to war when he (Trump) said we weren't going to go to war – it's just all the hypocrisy of people who voted for him...This is actually what's happening, it's in your face, look at it," Sexton said.

Donnelly said that Sexton, who's involved and a familiar face in the community, was the best person to lead the group.

> "It's important in a small town, that they see it's a real person and a real person who they like, and they care about who's sticking up for this versus, I think, sometimes, it can be a nebulous, faceless situation of 'protesters,'" she said.

Per the No Kings website, the last protest on Oct. 8 had over 7 million Americans joining over 2,700 events in all 50 states. On March 26, an estimated 8 million people protested.

The most important decision you make is to be in a good mood.
— Voltaire

OPINION

What's Playing at the Theater in Galien?

BY BILL BURCK

The world is a confusing place. Take this theater in Galien. They say it's not a theater at all but a township office. Yet every third Wednesday they perform something called Regular Board Meeting, which is — I'm sorry — great theater.

I was at the performance on February 18. The one where the lady came in and complained about all the cameras. I left the theater that night more confused than when I walked in.

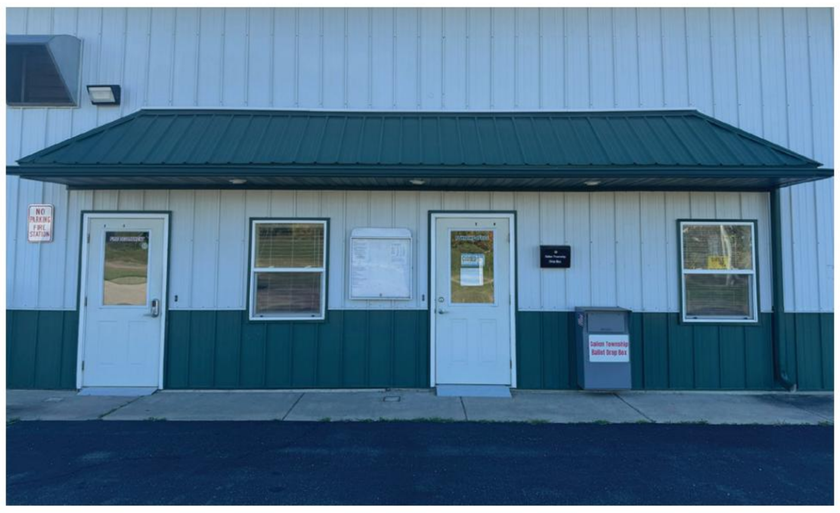
In Act 8, Scene b, you had the Galien Township attorney explaining how the township enforces its ordinances and laws and what not. This was because neighbors had been up in armsabout the property at 500 W US-12. Which is owned by the township board supervisor. That's right, Tim Richter, and he was sitting right there on stage. It was getting pretty thick in that theater about now.

Not too thick for the township attorney though.

"Enforcement is done as we receive complaints," she was saying. "I joke and tell people we don't have someone who drives around with binoculars and looks at your house to see if your gutters are falling off, or your weeds are high, or you haven't done something, or you have a pile of manure somewhere on your farm. We don't take enforcement that seriously, we just can't. If we did, we'd be writing everyone tickets. But what we do is we respond. If we get a complaint, we respond to it."

Okay, clear enough. No complaint, no enforcement.

But she took it a step further: "We give people time. We give people grace. That's probably not a legal term,



but we extend grace and give them a chance to clean up. We usually only issue tickets and follow up if there's not compliance within a set deadline."

In short, they're not jerks about it. There's a complaint, they investigate. If there's a zoning violation, they give you time to correct it.

This is where it gets confusing. Because not 20 minutes later, I heard Tim Richter say, "There's a lot of properties in this township that are completely in violation. There's one right across the street from my property, same zoning, running a business out of it. We gotta look into all that."

To which a citizen responded, "Well, I mean, you could complain. That's how this township seems to work."

The board supervisor wasn't having it. "I think we should just look at the whole thing. From one side of the township line to the other. Just look at everything."

"There's two mining locations here west of town that's mining right next to wetlands. There's the lawnmowers down here on 12. There's people living right out here in a camper out in the woods. There's people living on Rickerman Road in campers. Bob went out and talked to one of them, and he's running a landscaping business, that's illegal. But we gotta start from one side and go right to the other, and get everybody up to code."

The room was abuzz. Where was this coming from?

"If you're going to do one, you do them all," Richter continued, "No seriously. That's what we need to do."

Oh, I thought to myself. I get it. The "one" who'd been done was the board supervisor. Complaints from neighbors had led to enforcement against him and his property at 500 W US-12. Now the gloves were off. Time to do them all.

Citizen: But how is that actually going to work? Are you going to complain?

Richter: We shouldn't have to complain.

Citizen: But that's how everyone has said it works.

Richter: We need to change the policy on that.

Citizen: Every month it's going to be something different.

Richter: We got a lot of work to do. You should drive down Kinne Road sometime. It looks like a salvage yard.

Well, bless my peas. I do believe the theater in Galien is alive and well.

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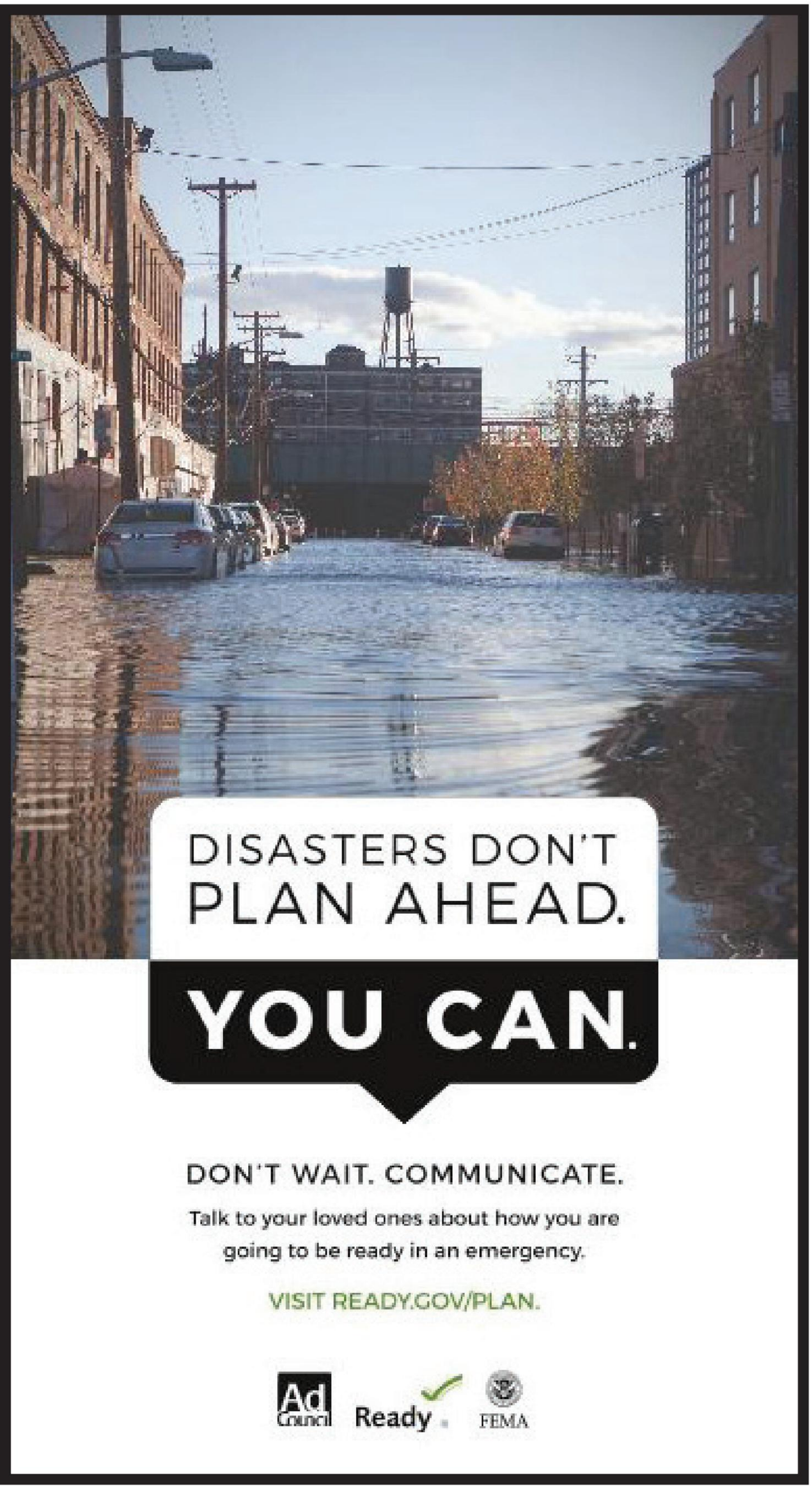

New site for proposed offender recovery home

BY STAN MADDUX

A new site has been chosen for an offender recovery home planned in Michigan City due to extensive push back from people living close to the original location.

The former location across from the former St. Anthony Hospital on the city's northwest side drew considerable opposition the past two years from nearby residents concerned about things like safety of a recovery home in a heavily residential area.

The new location is at Coolspring Ave. and Woodland Ave., an area close to Joy Elementary School with fewer residences and more professional office space nearby.

"We have what we believe is a good location," said La Porte Superior Court 4 Judge Greta Friedman, who's directly involved with creating what would be the first recovery home anywhere in the county.

The plan is to build a two-story, 12,600 square foot facility with 16 beds.

Friedman said the recovery home would be a place for lower level La Porte County Jail offenders recovering from substance abuse to live for up to two years after their release.

She said the temptation to start using alcohol and drugs again might be too great for offenders returning to the streets if they're homeless or residences in their old neighborhoods.

Tonn & Blank Construction has pledged more than $200,000 worth of labor toward the projected $2.2 million cost of building the facility spearheaded by the La Porte County Drug Free Partnership organization.

The La Porte County Council and Health Foundation of La Porte have each pledged $750,000 apiece toward the construction while Franciscan Health is committed to donating the land, said Jon Gilmore, President of Tonn & Blank Construction.

He said the goal is to raise the remainder of the funds to start construction in June of 2027.

Councilman Mark Yagelski suggested notifying property owners close to the new site in writing about the plans as soon as possible, something he felt could prevent another huge wave of opposition.

"There's nothing wrong with having a little community input on this one," he said.

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EASTER BUNNY BRUNCH

Elementary school concert a rainbow showcase

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

All the colors of the rainbow were showcased during New Buffalo Elementary School's annual spring concert at the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center Wednesday, March 25.

Students in kindergarten, first and second grades each sang a set of songs that represented each respective color, from "Nothing Rhymes with Orange," "It's Easy Bein' Green" and "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along." In an ode to the color white, all the students sang about pasta, with elementary and middle and high school SROs Rick Edgerle and Brianna Schmitz making a surprise appearance as chefs.

The program was directed by Janelle Foulk, elementary music teacher.

Students sing about all the colors of the rainbow

Students sing about the Honey Bee

Students sing about being blue

Students sing It's Not Easy Bein' Green

Music teacher Janelle Foulk directs students

SROs Rick Edgerle and Brianna Schmitz make a surprise appearance as chefs

Students sing Follow the Rainbow

Orange and yellow are represented by students

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The NCAA college basketball tournament is approaching its conclusion.

The field has been narrowed from 68 teams to 4.

Illinois and Michigan from the Big 10 will battle Connecticut and Arizona respectively in the semifinals and on Monday the winners will battle each other for the championship.

The tournament has been filled with close games and exciting finishes, with fifteen games being decided by five points or less, another five by six points, and countless games being close until the last couple of minutes.

The final game on Sunday was unbelievable, with Braylon Mullins of Connecticut making a long three pointer at the buzzer to defeat Duke 73-72. Duke dominated the first half and Connecticut had to fight back from a 15 point deficit to emerge victorious.

Professional basketball is going to change the rules of the collegiate draft next year to stop teams from trying to lose on purpose so they have a higher draft choice (tanking).

After watching the tournament this season, I have decided to follow college basketball next season rather than the professionals. Watching teams play with the desire to win is far more entertaining than watching teams play with the desire to lose.

As the college basketball season comes to an end, the Major League Baseball season kicked off this past week.

Why is it that baseball has such a hold on me and millions of other fans? Why is it that baseball is considered the all American sport? Why… Baseball hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet?

Let's travel alongside someone who grew up to be a baseball fan. When he was a baby, his mom and dad probably threw a spongy ball into his crib. As soon as he could sit up, he would throw/roll a ball to whoever wanted to play with him. When he could run, he would play running bases.

Someone would buy him a rubber ball, and he would play catch, throwing it against the steps or a wall all day long. His parents would buy him a mitt so he could learn to catch. He and some friends would go to the park, or an empty lot, and play pickup games.

When spring would come around he would get to go to Camden Yards, Wrigley Field, or any other big league park to watch his favorite big league players. He pours over the sports pages and as a byproduct learns math. He plays in the little league. If he has some skill, he plays pony league or high school ball.

The game is part of him now, so even though lawyers, agents, and business men try to take the joy out of the game, it can't be done. Some criticize the game for lack of excitement but those of us who love baseball will love it until the day we die.

Babe Ruth said, "Baseball was, is, and always will be to me the best game in the world."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

High hopes remain for Raiders despite opening day sweep

BY STAN MADDUX

Expectations are high for the Red Arrow Raiders returning almost every player from last year's 20 game winning girls' softball team.

The Raiders opened this season on March 25, though, by losing a doubleheader to a very talented Bridgman team 17-2 and 13-1.

Head Coach Erick Rochefort said he remains confident about his players competing again for a conference championship and returning to the District finals.

"They are staying pretty positive and working hard," he said.

In the first game, the Raiders jumped out to an early first inning lead when junior Johnna Rochefort hit a double to center field and sophomore Addison Lynch drove her in with a 240 foot home run.

Junior Laney Strother later fractured a finger while playing second base when she stopped a hard hit ground ball with her glove.

Strother is expected to be out for a couple of weeks.

The Raiders lost two seniors to graduation, but freshman Ella Lijewski is expected to help fill the void with her bat in the starting line-up and from the mound as one of the team's three pitchers.

The two other pitchers are senior Greta Vollman, an all-conference pitcher last year, and sophomore Rylee Rudolph, who received considerable time on the mound last season.

Rochefort said he doesn't see any weaknesses on his team, feeling their pitching, hitting and defense are all good enough to win the conference title this year and get back to the District championship game, which the Raiders lost handily to Buchanan last year.

The Raiders were 20-11 last season.

He said more competitive teams were added to the schedule this year to help better prepare his players should there be a rematch with Buchanan in the district tournament or some other team of that caliber.

"We're expecting to have a great team. We'll be fine," he said.

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It's easy to become a better basketball player but harder to become a better teammate or person.

— Tom Izzo

Princess, prince pageant kicks off Flag Day festivities

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

To kick off Flag Day season in Three Oaks, the area's youngest royalty was crowned on the Turner Stage at The Acorn during the annual Flag Day Prince and Princess Pageant Sunday, March 29.

Crowned princess and prince were Lillian Stark and Trey Peters, both of Three Oaks.

A fourth grader at River Valley Elementary School, 9-year-old Lillian's favorite subject in school is writing. When not in school, she enjoys playing basketball with her dad, and she likes the color banana yellow and wants to visit Kentucky.

"Ride on the float and throw candy to my friends and family" is what Lillian said is what she's most looking forward to riding in the Flag Day Parade.

"I was just really excited," she said of her crowning, adding that she's attended the annual parade in the past.

Trey Peters is currently 7 years old and attends River Valley Elementary School.

Emceeing the pageant were Ava Ladesma, who was 2025 Miss Three Oaks/River Valley and a former Flag Day Princess and currently attends Indiana University South Bend and Mya Thomas, who was 2024 Miss Three Oaks/River Valley and attended Twin Cities Beauty College to someday own her own salon.

Ledesma said the pageant is a chance for contestants to "step out of their comfort zone and explore something new."

"They get to learn how to interact in interview, get onstage and talk in front of an audience and see what our music community has to offer," she said.

Alongside them, Miss Three Oaks/River Valley Johnna Rochefort and Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley Clayton Burk will represent the community throughout the season, appearing at local events.

As part of their royal duties, Lillian and Trey will represent Flag Day at the Memorial Day service at Forest Lawn Cemetery next month, at the June 13 5K, pet parade and Quilts of Valor ceremony and ride in the "World's Largest Flag Day Parade" June 14.

Other princess contestants were Stella Stahnke, Jessi Ashcraft, Emma Tilford, Jasenia Schwark and Paulina Hernandez.

Judges were Judy Lockhart, a Three Oaks resident who judges the parade last year and has had a career in the luxury industry that stretched from San Francisco to New York; Carl Daley, a lifelong Three Oaks resident who graduated from New Buffalo in 1983, served in the U.S. Army, worked in the auto and heavy equipment industry for 49 years and has served as commander for Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 and Taylor Palmer, who lives in Dowagiac and is currently pursuing a Masters in criminal justice from Western Michigan University, works at the Berrien County Juvenile Center as a youth specialist and has held many national and local pageant titles.

The teller was Dyane Thomas-Niemzyk.

Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 was the sponsor. Harrington Photography in Three Oaks donated a photo session for the young royalty.

Emma Tilford answers a question posed by Ava Ledesma

Paulina Hernandez poses onstage

Stella Stahnke graces the stage

Lillian Stark is crowned Flag Day Princess by 2025 Princess Lily Jaspering and Ava Ledesma

Flag Day Prince 2026 Trey Peters

The contestants pose after the opening song

The annual Flag Day Weekend in Three Oaks will kick Friday, June 12. Events slated for Saturday, June 13, at Carver Park include the Paw-Triotic Pet Parade at 10 a.m.; Quilts of Valor Presentation at 1 p.m. and the Outdoor Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 74th annual Flag Day Parade kicks off on Elm Street at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 14. The parade features over 100 units, including veterans, color guards, musical marching bands, clowns, equestrian groups, drill teams, antique cars and trucks, drum and bugle corps, and antique tractors.

This year's Grand Marshal is Bill Donner. Per the Flag Day's website, Donner was born and raised in Three Oaks, where he spent time farming the land with his family and decades of leadership as township trustee and supervisor. He's also served in the National Guard as a tank driver.

He and his wife of 66 years, Barbara, have three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, "all part of a family that's grown right alongside this community."

From marching in the parade with the National Guard to driving tractors down Elm Street, Bill has been part of this tradition for decades and still looks forward to seeing familiar faces each year," the website states.

For more on Flag Day events, visit threeoaksflagday.com.

"Anyone who's been around for Flag Day knows the importance of this holiday and what it holds to our community - this is the time to come together to celebrate our country, our town and most importantly, our veterans," Ledesma said.

2025 Princess Lily Jaspering says the Pledge of Allegiance with Ava Ledesma and (left) Mya Thomas

Jessi Ashcraft strikes a pose

Jesenia Schwark answers a question posed by Ava Ledesma

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A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

The Art of Moving Forward

Standing in Kevin's office, I decided not to broach Jeff's being Kevin's friend. There was no upside to it. I had a hunch Kevin already knew, no matter how well-intended, the project was mired because he'd brought in a novice.

Granted, Predicaments was different than a television series that had a strict delivery schedule for multiple episodes. I assumed the fact that the project had no firm production schedule was one of the reasons Kevin had given Jeff a shot at it.

I was sure DIC would be well-compensated for its involvement with Predicaments. But, at best, it was time-consuming and not really worth Jean and Andy's time. I figured they were doing Mattel a favor producing the project. I was also betting Kevin wanted to wrap Predicaments as soon as he could and return to what he did best -- producing television series.

I knew I had to give Kevin on off-ramp that got Jeff off the project yet not injure their friendship. The challenge was finding a solution that gave Kevin and Jeff what they needed and gave me what I needed, and what I needed was to start writing the script. I answered Kevin's 'What do you suggest?' question with a simple, "Just let me write..."

Kevin asked, "What about Jeff?"

I said, "He's a smart guy. He can consult with me on the script. I'll use some of his ideas and he'll walk away with a 'co-written by' credit."

Kevin nodded and said, "Done." And that was the last we ever spoke about Jeff. I began writing the Predicaments script that night.

Jeff didn't show up the day after my meeting with Kevin. I'd see Jeff one last time when I gave him a script assignment for Lady Lovely Locks as a courtesy. Years later I looked him up on IMdB, a website that lists the credits of people in the entertainment industry. In thirty years he had a total of just seven writing credits, each for a single episode, two of them 'uncredited', which meant, whatever the reason, he didn't get a screen credit for writing the episode. Interestingly, Predicaments was not one of them.

As I've said several times, just so no one thinks I'm cruel, Jeff was a nice guy. But we all know where nice guys finish. That's more true in the entertainment industry than almost any other field, and especially when it comes to writers. It's a fast track. If you want to be a nice guy and a writer at the same time, stick with poetry. The motion picture and television industries eat up and spit out writers at a dizzying speed, and to survive you'd better have guts forged of adamantine steel.

I was toughening up. Getting Jeff cut wasn't something that made me particularly proud, but it was a necessity. It was a matter of self-preservation. This wasn't an industry where one should expect to run a popularity contest. I'd already made a couple of my own moves and came out unscathed. It was good that I was toughening up. I was going to need toughness in the coming years when things turned against me. Surviving those land mines and overcoming them would take all the guts and skill I had. But those are stories I'll get to later.

For now my star continued to be in ascendancy. I was reaching my full stride and, as it turned out, working on Predicaments was a lot of fun...now that I had 'taken care of business.'

HOROSCOPE

APRIL 2-8, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Even if your feelings challenge what you know needs to done, follow through with plans. Transcend fears and apprehension, make moves that have a longer range. Rise above the need for instant gratification and dedicate some effort towards preparing for the future. Fly out of that nest.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

There is a very transformative energy settling in this week, giving you the opportunity to not only use your strengths, but uncover some hidden talents. This is the time to transcend fears and go beyond previous limitations or difficulties. Make plans and get planting those seeds.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

There is an opportunity for you to move past your personal hang-ups about someone or something for the good of the group. Whether you are dealing with family or a circle of tight nit friends, it may be better to keep some of your opinions to yourself and let things flow without interference.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

The Stars are creating opportunities to put an end to long standing disputes and completely start anew in the relationship department. Partners have the propensity to be a source of renewal and growth this week. This is the time to establish new ways of interacting with others.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You will be blessed with the ability to get a hold on responsibilities and yet, indulge in some impracticalities this week. What other people may see as impossible or unachievable can be done, if you give it the right flare, and no one has flare like Leo. It's time to do your thing.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

A lot will be happening with your children or pet projects this week and you can expect to be getting more involved in something they have going on, or you will find the perfect tool or space for your hobby. There is a very creative and hardworking energy coming your way.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This week is ripe with opportunity to rise above previous setbacks or stalemates concerning your work or homelife. Whether you were dealing with an intense schedule or an overload of repairs, situations will even out now and you will feel much more at ease and able to relax.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The stars are creating an opportunity for you to put your personal touch on something. Use this opportunity to its fullest by getting involved and actively managing your time better. Don't be afraid to comb through all the details because what you plan and start now, will have some lasting power.

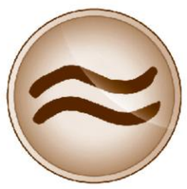
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

There is a very vibrant energy coming you way this week that will help to brighten your place of residence. You will have a lot of opportunity to put your personal touch on things. Also, at this time you will have the chance to be reinstated to a previous position or reissued lost paperwork.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

The stars are setting up an energy where you may experience some drastic endings or unavoidable separations but the good news is, there will be a new and improved system put in place, where you will experience a more reliable or stable setup. It won't get fixed, if it never breaks down.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



You will have a knack for pinpointing destructive energy or unproductive patterns this week. Put this ability to good use by following through and talking to people, and instilling changes. This is the time to not only get in touch with what needs to be done, but doing it.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The stars are creating an opportunity for you to rise above the confines of the mainstream and get in touch with what you personally find valuable and receive enrichment from. Pay more attention to what is going on around you, and investigate your gut feelings before following the crowd.

To know your Enemy, you must become your Enemy.
— Sun Tzu

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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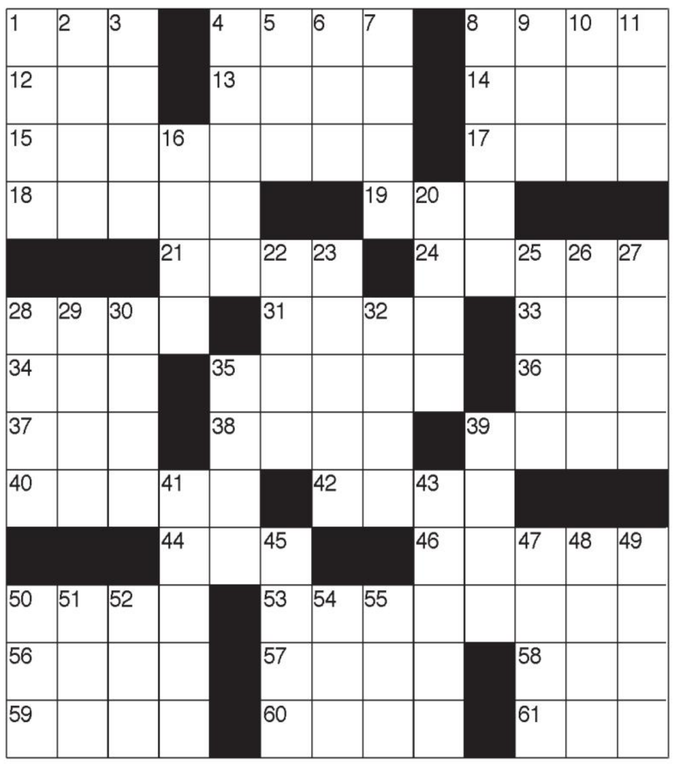
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Gentle blow
4 Target
8 Rhinoceros beetle
12 I (Ger.)
13 Hindustani language
14 Seed of cereal
15 Guessing game
17 Gash
18 Repeat
19 Narrowest part of the Malay
21 Seaport in W. Norway
24 Glow
28 Exclamations of doubt
31 Eight (comb. form)
33 Kilovolt-ampere (abbr.)
34 Eng. cathedral city
35 Flowering plant
36 Adjective-forming (suf.)
37 Mulberry of India
38 Niger-Congo language
39 Encircle
40 Falls
42 Lose liquid
44 Isaiah (abbr.)
46 Mourning poem
50 King of Judah
53 Gaming place
56 Noted psychiatrist
57 Exclamation (abbr.)
58 Alkali
59 Crude metals
60 Cushitic lang.
61 Social Security Act (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Bitter (pref.)
2 Hurt
3 Asian desert
4 Fertilizer
5 US military fort
6 Fruit drink
7 Long tooth
8 Fur seal
9 Be indisposed
10 Nanocurie (abbr.)
11 Extract
16 Chafes
20 Slugger's stats
22 Mine incline
23 Base eight
25 From Oklahoma
26 Ellipse
27 Germinated barley
28 Bean
29 Winglike
30 Wood (pref.)
32 Air
35 Maiden
39 Blackletter (abbr.)
41 Metallic sounds
43 One of the Harpies
45 Gorillas
47 Cupid
48 Proceeds
49 Young Men's Hebrew Assn. (abbr.)
50 SW Arizona town
51 Wall (Fr.)
52 Same
54 Oxygen (pref.)
55 Exclamation



PUBLIC NOTICES

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS IS ACCEPTING STUDENTS FOR THE BISON BEGINNERS PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

It is helpful to know how many students we will have as we begin planning for the 2026-2027 school year.

If you believe your child will qualify for either the Bison Beginners pre-kindergarten program or for kindergarten, please contact the elementary school office at 269-469-6060 so we can make sure your student is on our enrollment list. You can also email the elementary school's administrative assistant Jenna Wendel at jwendel@nbas.org. Please contact the office by Monday, April 6, 2026.

You will need to include the following information: child's name, birth date, parent/guardian name, address, phone number and email address.

BISON BEGINNERS

Parents/guardians that have children who will be four years old on or before September 1, 2026 are able to register their child for the Bison Beginners pre-kindergarten program. The program offers both half-day (a.m. only) or full-day sessions. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

KINDERGARTEN

Parents/guardians with students that will be five years old on or before September 1, 2026 are able to register their child for the full-day kindergarten program.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE AND TUITION

If you do not reside in the New Buffalo Area Schools district but do live in Michigan, you are welcome to apply for the School of Choice program. Tuition is also an available enrollment option for students living out-of-state. Information and applications for both programs are on our district's website at www.nbas.org/o/nbas/page/school-of-choice-and-tuition-students.

HEARING/VISION/DENTAL SCREENING

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students planning to attend New Buffalo Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year will be able to have a hearing, vision and dental screening performed by the Berrien County Health Department on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 from 12:30-3:30 pm at New Buffalo Elementary. Appointments (15 minutes) are required - please call or email the school office to schedule. This screening is required by the state of Michigan for kindergarten and highly encouraged by our district for pre-kindergarten. Please bring your student's birth certificate (original or a copy), student's immunization record and parent/guardian picture ID. If you will not be attending the health screening on April 28, please contact the Berrien County Health Department at 269-926-7121, extension 5293 to schedule an appointment or visit their website for more information: Dental Hearing & Vision Screening | Berrien County, MI.

OBITUARIES

Brian Adamec

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brian Adamec.

Brian lived a life marked by courage, strength, and dedication to others, and nowhere was this more evident than in his military service.

Brian served with distinction in the United States Army, leading soldiers in combat and earning numerous awards and commendations. He sustained life-changing injuries in service to his country, a sacrifice he carried with quiet strength for the rest of his life.

Brian will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him.

Memorial service arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Sommerfeld Chapel – 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, MI, has been entrusted with arrangements.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE
GRSD SEWER AUTHORITY
AND THE USERS OF THE AUTHORITY'S SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM
OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND THE
RIGHT OF REFERENDUM RELATING THERETO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the GRSD Sewer Authority, County of Berrien, State of Michigan (the "Authority"), intends to issue and sell revenue bonds pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended, in an amount not to exceed Twelve Million Dollars ($12,000,000), in one or more series, as shall be determined by the Board of the Authority, for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost to acquire, construct, furnish and equip additions, extensions and improvements to the Authority's sewage disposal system, including, but not limited to, improvements to tertiary filters, digester, SCADA upgrades, secondary clarifier, plant, and administrative facilities, together with all necessary sites, structures, equipment, interests in land, appurtenances and attachments thereto.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF REVENUE BONDS

THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID REVENUE BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE solely from the revenues received by the Authority from the operations of the Authority's sewage disposal system. Said revenues will consist of rates and charges that may from time to time be revised to provide sufficient revenues to provide for the expenses of operating and maintaining the system, to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds, payment of outstanding bonds, and to pay other obligations of the system.

BOND DETAILS

THE BONDS will be payable in annual installments not to exceed thirty (30) in number and will bear interest at the rate or rates to be determined at public or private sale but in no event to exceed such rates as may be permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE REVENUE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY UNLESS A VALID PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AUTHORITY IS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE AUTHORITY WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF A VALID PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AUTHORITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 33, Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

Secretary
GRSD Sewer Authority

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Ambulance crash linked to drug overdose

BY STAN MADDUX

A driver who crashed into an oncoming ambulance in La Porte and died was found with toxic levels of multiple drugs in her bloodstream.

That's according to La Porte County Coroner Lynn Swanson, who would not reveal the specific drugs a blood test detected in the driver's system.

Swanson said the blood sample taken from the victim during an autopsy contained no alcohol.

Rachel Johnson, 44, was pronounced dead at Northwest Health in La Porte about one hour after the February 21 crash.

La Porte Police said there were no patients in the ambulance returning from a service call when it was struck by an oncoming passenger vehicle around 7 a.m.

Police said Johnson of La Porte crossed the center line on Rose St.

The driver of the oncoming ambulance veered to the right side of the roadway but was not able to avoid the collision.

An emergency medical technician inside the ambulance suffered only minor injuries, police said.

A second ambulance was called to take Johnson to the hospital because the ambulance struck was disabled from the crash.

Swanson said cause of death was ruled from both drug use and blunt force trauma to the head and chest resulting from the crash.

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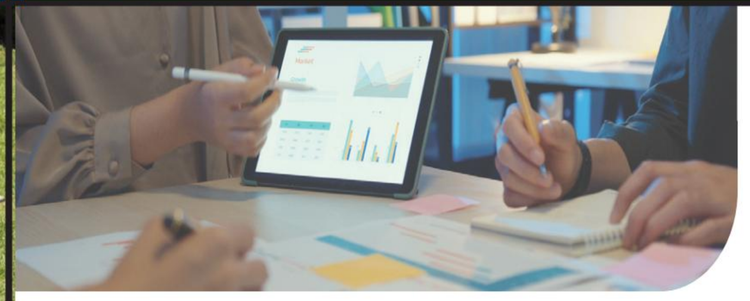
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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

WHAT IS KEEPING YOU SICK

There are so many mysterious illnesses today. Some doctors will tell you that your symptoms are all in your head. Others will prescribe medication for the symptoms that you are experiencing. Dizziness, nausea, sleep disorders, digestive disorders, skin rashes, headaches, fatigue, chronic cough, anxiety, depression. The list goes on and on. In my teachings, it is not what you take, but what you get rid of.

We each know our own bodies. When something isn't right, we know it. What if many of your symptoms are issues from modern day living?

There are many man made things today that are produced using chemicals that cause illnesses from Alzheimer's, and diabetes, to Cancers.

Allow yourself to really think of everything that you use,or even eat in a day. Make a list, you will surprise yourself.

Try to detox your life from these chemicals and make the switch. We don't even give it a second though. Maybe it is for convenience, maybe it is cheaper, or maybe it looks nicer. Making the switch to more natural. Even if it is over time, it will allow your body to heal from these everyday toxins.

Consider the fragrances that you use. On your body, or air fresheners that you spray. Read the ingredients. They are full of toxins that you breathe in and store in your body. Over time, they embed in your vital organs, circulating in your blood. Becoming you. Most of these ingredients are documented carcinogens (Causes cancer.) Are these necessary? Switch to natural essential oils. Or use nothing at all. Open windows. Burn incense or a candle for your home to smell good.

Let's consider the commercial candles and incense. All chemicals. Read the ingredients. You can switch to natural beeswax candles with cotton wicks instead of lead. Yes, the cost may be a bit more, but again, replace over time. Aren't you worth it? These little things can change your health.

Most everyone knows the dangers of eating or drinking from plastic today and the BPA endocrine toxicity. Switch to glass, carry a stainless-steel water bottle. Also, the Teflon coated non stick cookware. Toxic! You can research this and see for yourself. It is enough to make you angry. Switching out can be expensive. Consider resale shops to replace your cookware and dishes.

Look at the ingredients in your laundry detergent. No wonder there are so many allergies. It is so easy to make your own with natural ingredients. The internet is full of recipes, or purchase the nontoxic brands.

Our polyester clothing and bedding are also making and keeping us sick. Stopping our natural detox ability. Switch to natural fibers.

Look at your processed food and snacks ingredients. Can you pronounce the words? Yep, also making you sick.

Your conventional soaps and deodorants. Loaded with chemicals even aluminum that causes Alzheimer's and dementia.

This is a lot to think about, but you really should think about it. When you consider your health is on the line, you will see the value. You are worth it.Disclaimer: It is important to consult a healthcare provider, especially if you have existing gastrointestinal conditions.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

LEXUS

"You simply will not find a more lovable senior girl than Lexus. Her little body is arthritic but that doesn't stop her from melting into love and affection from us. We are head over heels, completely in love with her. We're looking for someone to adopt Lexus who adores senior cats and sees how special she is. Lexus welcomes all the snuggles, cuddles, pets and love that you have to offer. Lexus would be so happy to be the only kitty in her new home. We want to see Lexus in a home where she can relax and nap on soft cushions and be told how beautiful she is every day. Lexus is about 13+ years old and is spayed. She is the prettiest, sweetest senior babe."

Make Lexus part of your home today..

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New Buffalo Times
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What's Happening, Hillary?

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO THE BEST IN NEW BUFFALO, AND BEYOND!

APRIL 4, SATURDAY:
- Lakeside Inn Murder Mystery Dinner 7:30pm [Tickets]

APRIL 5, SUNDAY:
- Easter Brunches at Pebblewood, Round Barn Brewery, Tabor Hill Winery, Featherbone Factory, Skip's, Heron Bistro, and more [Reservations]

APRIL 9, THURSDAY:
- Tropical Watercolor Painting Class at JLN Studio 6pm [Tickets]

APRIL 10, FRIDAY:
- Bad Momz of Comedy at the Acorn 8pm [Tickets]

APRIL 11, SATURDAY-APRIL 12, SUNDAY:
- Journeyman Artisan Market [Free]

APRIL 11, SATURDAY:
- Halfway to Halloween Macabre Market 2pm [Free]
- Is It Here Yet? A Fool's Spring Comedy Night at Round Barn Brewery 6pm [Tickets]
- Viola Café Crawfish Boil and Movie Night at Vicker's Theater 6pm [Tickets]

APRIL 12, SUNDAY:
- Masters Sunday at Depths Society Golf in Stevensville

APRIL 17, FRIDAY:
- Disco Night at Peat's Cider Social 4pm

APRIL 18, SATURDAY:
- Tulip Fest in New Carlisle, Indiana 10am-3pm
- Tartan Day Festival at River St. Joe 12pm
- April 20ish BASH! at Burn 'Em Brewing 12pm

APRIL 19, SUNDAY:
- Welter's Folly Big Cup Putting Tournament 11am
- Drag me to Bingo Brunch at Union Pier Social 12pm

APRIL 20, MONDAY:
- Jazz Night with Bill Romer and Friends at Shoreline Brewery 7pm

APRIL 23, THURSDAY:
- Tiny Native Beach Art Class at Solasta Winery 5-7pm [Register]

APRIL 24 FRIDAY-APRIL 26 SUNDAY:
- Art Attack Weekend with various activities all over Harbor Country, find out more at www.michiganartattack.com

APRIL 25, SATURDAY:
- Spring Fling benefitting Neighbor by Neighbor at The Section House in Sawyer 7pm [Tickets]
- Banana Knots Macrame Friendship Bracelet Workshop at The Sandpiper in Bridgman 10am-2pm [Register]

APRIL 26, SUNDAY:
- Watercolor Basics Workshop at Baroda Soda 3-5pm [Tickets]

School of American Music to presents Free Family Concert: 'The Best of Both Worlds'

The School of American Music (SAM) invites the community to a special Free Family Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator.

This engaging and accessible performance will feature an exciting program titled "The Best of Both Worlds," celebrating beloved selections from both opera and Broadway.

The concert will showcase three exceptional artists: Yvette Smith, mezzo-soprano; Matthew Daniel, tenor; and Lisa Kristina, accompanist - each bringing extensive professional experience and a passion for performance and education.

Mezzo-soprano Yvette Smith, a longtime chorister with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, has performed in a wide range of operatic roles and has appeared as a soloist at prestigious venues including the White House and the Washington National Cathedral. She is a dedicated educator, teaching at the School of American Music.

Tenor Matthew Daniel, also a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago chorus, has built a distinguished career performing leading roles across the country and brings over 25 years of experience in opera, oratorio, and concert repertoire. He is also a dedicated educator, teaching voice at the School of American Music and throughout the region.

Accompanist Lisa Kristina is an accomplished pianist and vocalist who has performed on Broadway in "The Phantom of the Opera" and collaborated with leading opera companies and musicians internationally. She maintains an active career as a performer, music director, and educator.

This free concert is part of SAM's ongoing commitment to making high-quality music accessible to all. Through initiatives like its Free Family Concert Series, SAM continues to remove barriers to the arts while enriching the cultural life of the greater Harbor Country community.

Audiences of all ages are encouraged to attend and enjoy an afternoon of powerful voices, familiar melodies, and the unique blend of classical and contemporary musical traditions.

For more information about the School of American Music and its programs, please visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com.

Founded in 2013, the School of American Music (SAM) is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to making music education and performance accessible to all in Harbor Country and beyond. Through concerts, classes, outreach programs, and festivals, SAM celebrates the power of music to connect, inspire, and transform lives. — STAFF REPORTS

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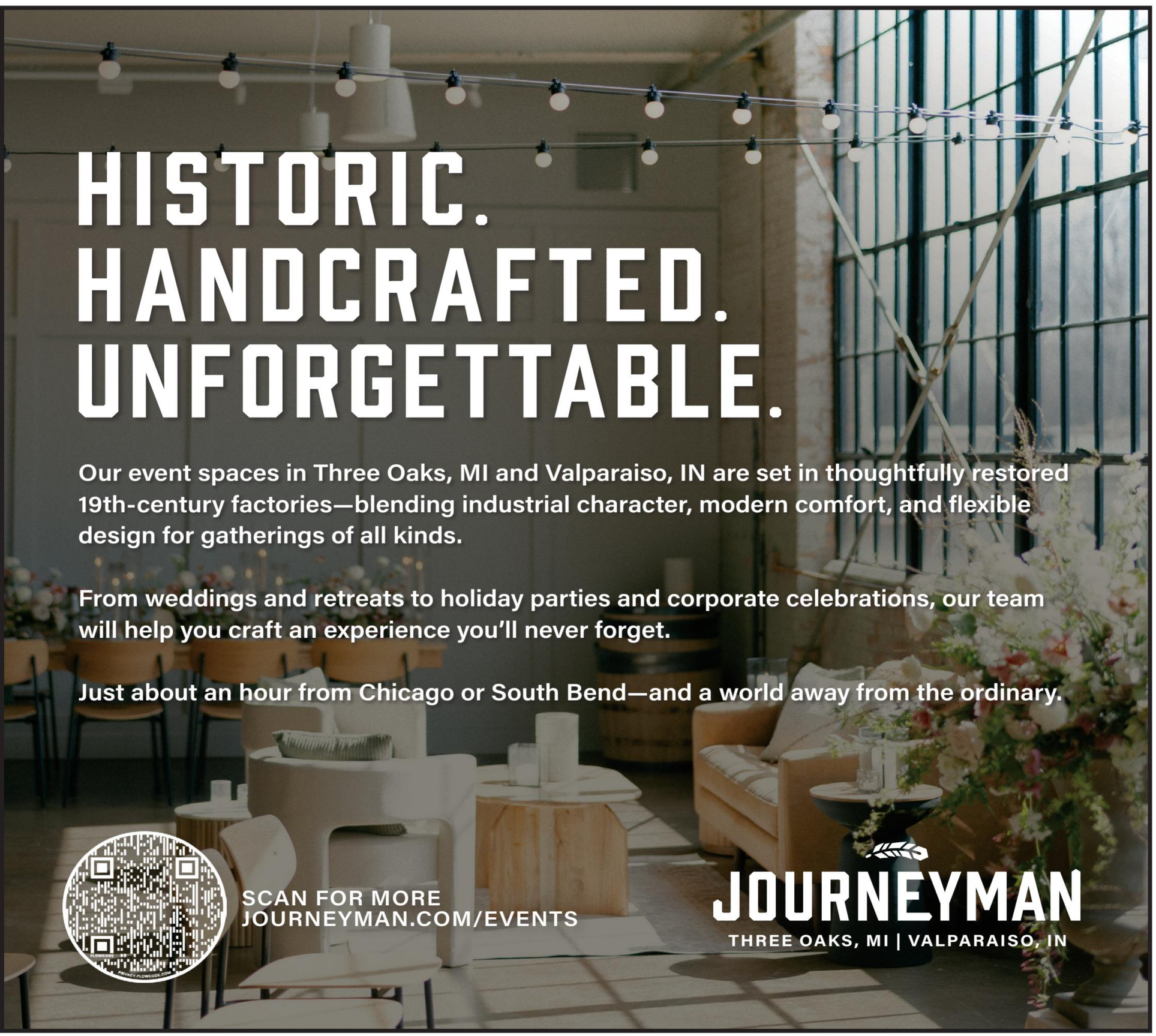
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